Bank of India, Overseas Branch, Parliament Street, New Delhi and one Clerk of RBI, New Delhi, among others, are involved in the matter. The Divisional Officer is alleged to have provided forged and false Export Performance Certificates whilst the Manager (Exports) is engaged to have furnished letter head pads of the State Bank of India, Overseas Branch to one of the accused for preparing bogus certificates. CBI has further reported that a Clerk in RBI, New Delhi was also working as part-time Clerk with one of the accused. In this connection, CBI has registered a regular case under Section 120B read with Section 420, 467, 468, 471 IPC and Section 5 of the IMPEX Act, 1947.

Loans given by LIC to various Municipalities and Corporations

342. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Mnister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Life Insurance Corporation extends loans to various Municipalities|Corporations for executing their water supply schemes under guarantee of the respective State Governments;

(b) if so, what is the procedure for granting such loans to such organisations;

(c) whether Government propose to simplify this procedure by giving lump sum loans to the State Governments as per plan allocations, which in turn will be responsible for granting loans to these Organisations and make State Governments responsible for the recovery of such loans; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The loan applications for technically and administratively approved schemes of Government received from State Governments or the State-level Board, wherever constituted, are examined by the Life Insurance Corporation of India and justification and financial viability of the Schemes established before sanctioning loans. After execution of agreement by the borrower and Guarantee Deed by the State Government concerned, loans are disbursed in instalments looking to the financial and physical progress of the Schemes in hand subject to the allocations made by the Planning Commission.

In the overall interest of the policyholders, it is necessary for the LIC to monitor the physical progress of each Scheme to ensure proper utilisation of funds and also matching contributions by the Municipalities, etc.

Expansion of bilateral trade and technological Cooperation between China and India

343. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the feelings of the Chinese Leaders that conditions now exist for China and India to expand bilateral trade, economic and technological cooperation;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Both the Government of India and the Government of China attach importance to their cooperation in the fields of trade and economic and technological co-operation.

(b) A Trade Agreement between India and China was signed in August 1984 and a Trade Protocol in Novembeer, 1985. Trade delegations have been exchanged and efforts have been directed at increasing the volume and content of bilateral trade. Exchanges in the field of Science and Technology are being fostered under Bilateral Exchange Programme.

(c) While there has been some improvement in bilateral exchanges in these fields

it has been Government of India's consistent policy that genuine normalisation of India-China relations can only be achieved when a just and comprehensive settlement of the boundary question is reached.

Promotion of Tourism

344. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken certain measures in the recent past to attract greater number of tourists;

(b) if so, the particulars of measures taken and with what results;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's considertion to constitute a high level monitoring cell to oversee and monitor implementation of various schemes for promotion of tourism; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps the cell is likely to take to solve the problem faced by tourists like over-charging and cheating?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SYED): (a) and (b) Apart from the normal promotional measures undertaken by the various operations in collaboration with Air India, Government have taken a specific strategy to attract larger numbers of overseas visitors. The overall emphasis in the general marketing strategy has been to highlight India as a Holiday destination, a destination for fun and adventure. A destination which has a rich cultural heritage, but is at the same time young.

The major strategy in the marketing thrust in over the last 2 years was to go in for direct consumer advertising—both in the electronic and print media. In U.K. the resurgence of interest in the 'Raj' was capitalised by both Travel agents and Tour Operators.

In USA the interest generated by the Festival of India celebrations was caused in by organising promotional avenings and seminars. This year the Government is launching a special campaign with the bye-line "Have the Festival of your life—In India it is wonderful" which will be in the media from September onwards.

In Europe a campaign to attract visitors during the Lean Session was launched under the bye-line 'Affordable India'. Both Airlines, Hoteliers and the Travel Trade joined hands to give a 20 per cent discount to all those who visited the country between 15th April to 30th June and from September 1 to 30, 1986.

In East Asia, a special drive to invite visitors during the summer was launched, which is being followed-up by a quiz in the current financial year.

All these activities were supported by special Promotional Delegations, led by the Director General, who was accompanied by Members of the Airlines and Travel Trade. These were to the Gulf, Russia, Europe and to Australia from mid 84, 85 to mid 86.

(c) The monitoring of on-going schemes in the various States is a continuous exercise, in which Union and State Ministers and officials of the Ministry and also of the State Government take part. Meetings are held periodically, and the progress of implementation of the schemes and promotional measures reviewed.

There is a monitoring cell in the Department of Tourism to deal with all these matters.

(d) There is also a Complaint Cell in the Travel Trade and Tourism Services Division of the Department. This cell forwards all complaints received from the tourists to the concerned State Governments for prompt enquiry and remedial action. It also gets enquiries made through the Department's own field offices. Some of the States have legislatures to regulate Travel Trade. Others have been advised to consider passing appropriate laws.